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April 10, 2002

Via ECFS and UPS Next Day Air

William F. Caton, Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
9300 East Hampton Drive
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

Re: In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Mr. Caton:

Attached for electronic filing in the above referenced matter are the Comments of the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("MDTE"). The MDTE is also filing the original and five paper copies of these Comments by UPS Next Day Air. Kindly stamp one paper copy and return it to us in the enclosed stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Sincerely,

/s/

Paul G. Afonso
General Counsel

Enclosure

cc: Qualex International (electronically and by paper)